

P.M. Hill 19 Jan 150

OF THE  
POWER and INFLUENCE  
OF THE  
SUN and MOON  
On Humane  
BODIES;  
And of the  
DISEASES  
That rise from thence.

By *Richard Mead*, Dr. of Physick, and Fellow  
of the Royal Society, and Physician in Or-  
dinary to *St. Thomas's Hospital* in *Southwark*.

*Rationalem puto esse debere Medicinam, instrui vero  
ab evidentibus Causis, obscuris omnibus non a cogi-  
tatione artificis, sed ab ipsa arte rejectis. Cels.  
in Præf.*

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THE  
PREFACE.

**S**INCE the Study of Physick has been different in every Age, according to the prevailing Opinions and Determinations of Philosophers; I cannot but sometimes admire, that since for some Years past, there has been so happy and strict an Inquiry into the Secrets of natural Causes, that this healing Art is so little advanced; which might very well have been hoped for from so good Reasonings.

What great Advantages were  
a 2                      gained

*gained in the Knowledge of natural Philosophy, by joyning Geometrical Reasonings to the Inquiry into the Secrets of Nature; chiefly by Galilæus, Kepler, Torricellius, and Newton; none, tho' never so little versed in these Secrets, can be ignorant of; and for all this, Physick is still full of nothing but Conjectures; and scarce deserves the Name of a Science.*

*Whether this is to be attributed to the Nature of the Art it self, which has no certain Principles; or rather to the Fault of the Artists, who having gone astray, are loth for fear of Labour and Trouble to return again into the right Way; some other Time perhaps we*



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*we shall discuss: In the mean Time, that it may be made manifest how much Advantage may be reaped by Physicians, both in finding out the Causes and Remedies of Diseases, by the Study of Geometry; I am resolved to explain the most difficult Question of the Return and Circulation of certain Distempers, which can only be found out by the Help of this Art.*

*I am therefore forced in this Disputation, to take a more accurate Account of the Reasons of Numbers, than Physick seems to require. Not that I would shut out from our Disquisitions all that are ignorant of Geometry, but to satisfy those who desire a strict Inquiry*

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*Inquiry into the Secrets of Nature; lest it should be thought that I vent fictitious Hypotheses for mechanical Causes, and vain Figments for the Laws of Nature.*

*Those that are no Lovers of Mathematicks, may pass by this Part of my Work. I seek no Applause from Algebraical Calculations, being sensible as to that of my own Weakness; but I hope in these Sheets, I shall relate some Accounts, and make some Remarks, that even those who reject all Reasonings, and only follow Experience as their Guide, will find some Advantage; which is the End of my whole Design.*

*Physick is a large Field, and there are more Ways than one to assist*



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*assist miserable Mortals who languish under innumerable Distempers; it consists both of Experiments and Reason, and he that has not an entire Confidence in the latter, proceeds better armed, and may give his Patient better Hopes, the more he is versed in the former.*

*Physick certainly requires both Helps, and he that has Examples enough should not be defective in Science, that he may know how to adapt them to the various Cases.*

*For, tho' for sober and temperate Men, such as the first Race of Mankind are said to be, a few Remedies which were found out by Chance, and approved on by Practice,*

*etice, were sufficient; yet in Success of Time, when Luxury and Idleness had debauched the World, as Diseases increased, new Remedies were to be found out, and Inquiry to be made, not only what caused the Distemper, but into the various Changes of it, and why that which would cure one, would not another.*

*For this Reason Hippocrates says, (a) A Physician should consider what is proper and common in his Patient; because as Celsus most excellently observes, (b) Diseases are different in different Bodies, and he that finds out the true Cause, easily cures the Distemper.*

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(a) Epidem. Lib. I. (b) b. in Pref.



*For no other Reason Pliny says, (a) The Art of Physick was laid aside for 700 Years together, viz. from the Trojan to the War of Peloponnesus; but because, new Diseases appearing in the World, those that were Physicians by Experience only, which we now call Empericks, were found insufficient, the Philosophers only challenged this healing Art, which without the Knowledge of Natural Causes is found to be lame and deficient.*

*For this Reason Celsus (b) speaking of this Interval, says, The Science of Physick was counted a Part of Philosophy,*

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(a) Lib. 29. in Proem. (b) Ib.

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so the Curing of Diseases and the Contemplation of natural Causes had both the same Authors.

*And its much to our Purpose, here to observe, that those Philosophers were famous Geometricians, who lay'd the surest Foundation of our Art.*

Pythagoras in those Times excelled all the Philosophers, and acquired so great Reputation that it was generally said of him, that he travelled thro' many Cities, not so much to teach as to cure (a) them; the great Progresses he made in Mathematicks are evident from the two noble Problems

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(a) *Ælian. Lib. 4.*



The PREFACE. xi.

*he first demonstrated; the one de Quadrato lateris in ὁρθογωνίῳ Triangulo recto angulo subjecti Quadratis laterum eundem continentium æquali; the other, de Area Parabolæ, which Proclus (a) assures us he first demonstrated, and for which rather than the first, Plutarch believed he sacrificed a Hecatombe.*

*Empedocles in Italy was his Scholar, a Man of a divine Wit, who having searched into the very Bowels of Nature, performed those Things in Physick, no Emperick could pretend to it.*

*There happened to be in Agrigentum, his native City, a cru-*

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(a) Lib. 4. ad primum Euclid.

el Plague; he quickly found out the Cause, and by stopping the narrow Passages of the Mountains thro' which the contagious Winds passed, perfectly cured the Town. (a)

He did the same good Turn to the Citizens of Selinuntium; for observing that the Plague was caused by the Stagnation of the Mud and Stink of a small Rivulet, he ordered two other Rivers to be conveyed into it; which removed the Mud by making a swift Current, and so cured the City.

These Relations are the more remarkable, because the Anci-

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(a) Plutarc. in Lib. *περὶ πολυπραγμοσύνης*,  
& in contra Colot.



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*ents believed that all contagious Diseases were sent by the Anger of the Gods, and that all Physick was in vain in those Cases.*

*But mechanical Science in both these Cases found out a Remedy; and Histories are full of the like Calamities, proceeding from the like Causes.*

*Democritus who is believed to be the Master of Hippocrates, was an excellent Physician and Geometrician; he writ de Contactu Circuli & Sphæræ, de Geometricis, de Lineis ratione carentibus, and also, de Natura Hominis, de Humoribus and de Pestibus (a).*

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(a) Diog. Laert. in Vitâ Democr.

*By*

*By such like Men as these the Profession grew up to the Time of Hippocrates. Who observing the Superstition of the Vulgar, and the Impudence of Empericks, together with the vain Ostentation of the Sophists, resolved to remedy the Matter, and remove the Impediments, in his golden Book of the Falling-sickness. He shews those vulgar Methods destroy'd Religion, and therefore he spends a great deal of Time in Discovery of their Cheats, who cover their Ignorance under the Vail of Piety, pretending by Incantments to cure all Distempers, which they could not by the Rules of Art.*

*In his Books de Arte, de Decoro, and de Præceptionibus, he*  
*acute-*



*acutely and prolixly disputes, both against those who deny Physick to be an Art, and likewise those that abuse it.*

*And I cannot here but observe, that some would draw Hippocrates to their Party, as if the divine old Gentleman approved of a mechanical Sort of Reasoning; hear his own Words, which best explain his Meaning, I commend, says he, Reasoning, so it proceed from the Things that are perceived by the Senses and Experiments, and when the Conclusion is rightly gathered from the Premisses, otherwise it only breeds Knots and Difficulties (a).*

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(a) Lib. de Præcept.

*This is further illustrated and confirm'd from what he himself inculcates, discoursing of the ancient Practice of Physick. He says, Many Physicians are like the Masters of Ships, where Ignorance is not discovered in a calm Sea and a gentle Breeze, but Tempests make a full Discovery of their Ignorance. The Properties of Things are to be exactly known, and the Power and Influence they have on our Bodies. The Figures of the Parts are to be considered, some are pyramidical, some smooth, some cylindrical, some condensed, and some rarified.*

*This*



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*This is that Science, which being joyned to the Study of Physick, equals a Man to the Gods (a).*

*But I will dwell no longer on the Matter, it's evident from what is said, that Hippocrates calls these only Σοφιστῆς who reason only upon fictitious Causes. But Ἐργασίη those only are to be esteemed Physicians, who understand the Laws of Nature, and the exact Fabrick of humane Bodies, which I observe for the sake of those who make no Difference between the feigned Hypotheses of Philosophasters, and the certain Conclusions of Geometrici-*

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(a) Lib. de Decor.

b

ans,

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ans, and expose to the Scorn of the Vulgar the most useful Science.

The First treat Philosophy and Physick ignorantly and absurdly, and there is a vast Difference between their Opinions and the Reasonings of the Latter. He that lays down an Hypothesis follows what to him seems congruous, and labours to shew that his Positions are sutable and proper to solve the Events and Phenomena's; on the other Hand, Mechanical Theory consists of Demonstrations, which by his Skill in Geometry he either draws from the Figure of the Bodies, or by a necessary Induction from the known and manifest Laws of Motion.

This



*This will still be more cleared up by Examples. Descartes has made a small Treatise full of Conjectures about the Gravity of Bodies, which has advanced nothing the Knowledge of the Nature of Things. But Newton has pursu'd this Matter geometrically, without any regard to the Cause; he has set before our Eyes the very Fabrick of the World. Dr. Willis has given us an Idea of soporiferous Distempers; which shews that the Author more abounded in Words than in Principles of Physick. But Bellinius reducing the History and Symptoms of them to Mechanical Reasoning, has laid open the Way to the Knowledge*

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*and Cure of grievous Distempers.  
It's to no Purpose to say more of  
the Matter, or to endeavour to  
extort their Assent who obstinate-  
ly maintain their Assertions, and  
seek for the Sun at Noon-day.*

*So much for the Design of my  
small Treatise. I wish my Rea-  
der to be a little versed in what  
Mr. Newton has writ, or at  
least to understand what E. Hall,  
a Man of universal Knowledge  
and Learning (a) has clearly  
demonstrated, according to the  
Sense of the chief Philosopher,  
Of the Flowing and Ebbing of*

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(a) Numb. 226.

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The PREFACE. xxi  
the Sea in our Philosophical  
Transactions.

*When I had communicated my Design, by a Letter to A. Pitcairn a Physician, born for the Good of the Common-wealth, and the Advancement of Learning, and my particular Friend, he applauded my Intent, and out of his great Civility supplied me out of his ingenious Collections with the Histories of the periodical Recourse of several Distempers. These are the great Ornaments of our Book, which I have interspersed and delated on in their proper Places; being well pleased to have my Sentiments approved on by a Man so knowing in these Matters,*

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*Matters, and so much the more, because it's fit that a New Theory should be supported by the Observations of others, rather than their own.*

*Besides, our Dissertation shews the Wisdom and Goodness of the great Creator of all Things, who having excellently provided for all living Creatures, has made this Difference between the Rational and Irrational; that whilst the Brutes enjoy all the common Benefits of Nature, we can further advance and enquire into the Reasons and Use of Things, and contemplate the Divine Workmanship of this curious Structure.*


*Last.*



*Lastly, I have given a short Account of the Cures in those memorable Cases, being resolved some Time or other to publish my own Observations on the like Occurrences, if Time and Leisure will permit; in the mean Time, Reader enjoy these.*

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OF THE  
POWER and INFLUENCE  
OF THE  
SUN and MOON  
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And of the  
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CHAP. I.

**T**HE Ancients always held,  
that the periodical Accessi-  
ons and Circulations of ma-  
ny Distempers depended on the Pow-  
er of the Moon. Some advanced so  
far as to maintain that the Influence  
of the Stars was the sole Cause  
of them. The last Writers of  
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the Histories of the common Diseases, are wholly taken up in summing the Motions and Influencies of the celestial Bodies; therefore *Hippocrates* advises his Son *Theffalus* to study diligently Arithmetick and Geometry, because *the Rising and Setting of the Stars* have a great Influence on Diseases.

But in Process of Time, when *Physick* was squared and fitted to the Determinations of Philosophers, and that none of them explained the close Conjunction between the Stars and the Bodies of Mortals, by Degrees the true Rules of Observing being laid aside, the celestial Causes were thought to have no other Efficiency or Power, than what was caused by the ambient Air, unless we except some Sparks of Truth which the vulgar Astrologers have much obscured, by their vain Fictions, and foolish Boastings.

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(a) *Epist. ad Theffalum.*

My



My Design is therefore, to make Something certain appear in a very difficult and abstruse Matter, to shew first of all, the Course of the Sun and Moon, besides the Changes which the Season of the Year produce, and the Storms that proceed from thence, which do affect our Bodies according to their various Stations, and disturb the Motions of the Fluids. Afterwards to make an Enquiry what Diseases, and with what Symptoms, draw their Origin from thence. Lastly, to shew how great Advantages to Physick may be drawn from such Reasonings.

Its a constant Observation of those who have writ the History of the Winds, that the most impetuous Winds happen about the vernal and autumnal Æquinoxes; besides, its agreed on by all, that they are in their Seasons the most violent at Noon and Midnight, that is to say, when the Sun is in our Zenith, or

in the Nadir, viz. in the vertical Point over our Heads, or the quite opposite under us. The same likewise happens when the Tide of the Flood is at the Highest, when the Moon comes to our vertical Point, or to the directly opposite. Mariners therefore and Husband-men observe diligently those Seasons. Its likewise observed by every Body, that at the Full and Change of the Moon the Weather changes, and Winds commonly rise. He that would be more fully inform'd of this Matter, let him read *De Chales* Book, *de Arte Navigandi*; *Gassendus's Philosophy*, and *J. Goad's Astrometeorologica*.

Since all these happen by a constant and perpetual Order of Nature, its to be much admired that none has made a more exact Inquiry into the Causes of them. For tho' its most true that the Origin of the Winds is various, and depends on  
vari-



various Principles, yet nevertheless, such a constant and certain Recourse of them at certain Seasons, must needs have from Nature some certain and necessary Cause, that always acts in the same Manner.

It has long since been agreed on, that the ambient Air is a subtile *Fluid*, endowed with an *elastick* Power, whose inferior Parts are pressed by the superior, and the Power of every Part does equally diffuse it self into an *Orb*. From hence it proceeds, that if any external Cause diminish the Gravity of this Element in any Place, it makes at the same Time all the surrounding Air to rush into the Place from every Part, till the *Æquilibrium* in all the ambient Air be restored, which is a necessary Effect in all fluid Bodies.

Every such Impetuosity creates a Wind, which is nothing but a quicker Motion of the Air towards some Corner of the World; we are therefore

fore to enquire whether there be any universal Cause, which changes the Pression of the Air in the above mentioned Seasons. This whatsoever it be, causes the Wind and all the *Phænomena's* that depend on it, to return at certain Seasons.

The Flowing and Ebbing of the Sea, and the wonderful Conveniences Mankind enjoys from thence, has invited the curious Searchers into the Secrets of Nature, to a serious Contemplation of it. But all their Inquiries were in vain till Mr. *Newton* from higher Principles and more consonant to Nature, discovered to the World this admirable Work of the great Creator; by the Help of these Principles its clearly demonstrated, that from the separate and conjunct Powers of the Sun and the Moon, whose Effects, notwithstanding, are encreased or diminished according to the various Situation of Places and other Accidents



dents from whence arise the infinite Varieties of Tides; and since the abovementioned Changes of the *Air*, come about the same Time in which the Flowing and Ebbing of the Sea happens, and that the Waters of the Ocean and the ambient Air are fluid Bodies, they are in a great Measure subject to the same Laws of Motion; from hence it's clear, that the Axiom of the great Philosopher (*a*) takes Place here, *viz. That all Natural Effects of the same Kind have the same Causes.*

I will by and by account for the Difference between the known Power of the *Air*, and that which the Water wants. It's evident that as the Sea swells and rises, so the ambient Air twice in 25 Hours is raised to a very considerable Height, from the Attraction of the Moon coming to the Meridian; so that instead of

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(*a*) *Princip.* p. 402.

a *spherical* Figure, it becomes *spheroidal*, whose longest Diameter extended would pass thro' the Moon. The same Swelling of the Air does necessarily follow, as often as the Sun comes to the Meridian of any Place, either above or below the Horizon; but it's greatest of all at new and full Moon, from the conjunct Power of both the Planets. It's the least when the Moon is but half Full, for then the Planets draw each a contrary Way; the only Difference of Power by which the one exceeds the other, causes this Effect. Lastly, its mean or middling, during the Time between the dimiditated Orbs of the Moon, and the new and full Moon.

Besides, the Air is raised higher than ordinary about the two Equinoxes; because when the Equinoctial Line does answer that Circle of the Terrestrial Globe over against it, which has the largest Diameter, then



then both the glorious Luminaries while they are in that Line are nearer the Earth, besides the Agitation of a *spheroidal Fluid* revolving it self in a larger Orb becomes greater, and the *centrifugal* Power arising from the diurnal Motion of the Earth, has in that Place the greatest Effect. These Causes will gather more Strength from the new and full Moon at these Seasons, for the same Reason; but there will be the least Attraction about the dimidiated Orbs of the Planet in these Months, because the Moon is then in its greatest Declension from the Equator. To conclude, the various Distances of the Moon in its *Perigæum* and *Apo-gæum* are the Cause that these Changes come a little before the vernal Equinox, but follow the Autumnal.

All Things happen quite contrary when the two Planets stay in the solstitial Circle.

That I may put an End to this, in the same Parallels where the Declination of the Moon is towards the Pole of the Heaven which is highest elevated, the Attraction is very strong, when she comes to the Meridian Point of that Place; but it's very little when she comes to the Meridian of the opposite Place, which happens quite contrary in the Parallels over against them; this is caused by the spheroidal Figure of the Earth and the Air.

All this Discourse is founded on *Newton's* Doctrine of the Flowing and Ebbing of the Sea accomodated to the Air; neither is it hard to understand from what has been said, the Necessity of the *Phænomena* of the Winds returning at certain Seasons. The next Thing therefore we have to do is, to shew how high then the Waters of the Ocean arise or are lifted up; then for what Cause the *Lunatick* swelling of the Air surpasses their



( 11 )

their Flowing; that from thence we may the better understand how great Power it has to disturb the Motions of the *Animal Machine*.

*Newton* has demonstrated (a) that the Power of the Sun to move the Sea has that Proportion to the Center of Gravity, that 1 has to 12868200 let this be it.

$$S : G :: 1 : n. \quad \text{Whence } S = \frac{G}{n}.$$

The Power likewise of the Moon which raises the Sea, is in Proportion to Gravity, as 1 to 2031821. let it be thus.

$$L : G :: 1 : s. \quad \text{Hence } L = \frac{G}{s}.$$

And since the centrifugal Power of the Parts of the Earth which proceeds from the diurnal Motion, is

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(a) *Princip. Lib. 3. Prop. 36.*

( 12 )

to the Center of Gravity, as 1 to 291. let it be thus.

$$C. G :: 1. e. \quad \text{Hence } C = \frac{G}{e}.$$

$$\text{Hence } \frac{G}{n} + \frac{G}{s} + \frac{G}{e} :: \frac{1}{n} +$$

$$S + L. G ::$$

$$\frac{1}{S} \frac{1}{e} :: 1 \frac{s n}{S + n \times e} :: 1. 6031.$$

The same Philosopher tells us, that the *centrifugal Power* under the Equator, raises the Water more than about the Pole 85200 Feet: since then that Power which is as 6031 doth raise this Element 85200, the joynt Powers of the Sun and the Moon, which are as 1, will raise the same 14 Feet,

$$\text{for } \frac{85200}{6031}$$

$$= 14 \text{ very near.}$$

It's



It's also granted, that the Flowing and Ebbing of the Sea is in coming and going back, performed with greater Impetuosity, the easier the Waters obey the attractive Power. But that ingenious Geometrician *Edmund Hall* has proved, that (a) the Region of the Air is extended 44 Miles, but the middle Altitude of the Water of the Ocean, does not reach above half a Mile; it's clear that the Space possessed by the aerial Sphere exceeds the Bulk of the Ocean 100 Times, tho' the whole Globe of the Earth were covered with Water.

From hence proceeds a greater Agitation in the larger Orb of the fluid Air driven about.

Besides, Rocks, Shoals, and unequal Arms and Bays of the Sea, hinder the Sea in its Flowing and Ebbing; but nothing hinders the Elevation

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(a) *Philos. Transact.* 181.

of the Air; whose Subtility and wonderful Fluidity, in Comparison of the Water, makes it by the least Force to be pushed any Way.

Here we must observe, that its a constant Rule in all Bodies that are *attracted*, that the Powers of Attraction are in a reciprocal Proportion to the Squares or Square Number of their Distances; so the Power of the Sun and Moon is much stronger, and makes a greater Impression on the Air than on the Water, because of the Nearness of this Element.

But the *elastick* Power of this Element is still the more to be considered, whose Nature is to have a *reciprocal Proportion* to the Pressure that lyes upon it; from hence it follows, that the Weight that lies upon it being diminished, the *subjected Air* presently mounts a great Height.

It must be granted, that by Degrees it diminishes; so that beyond a certain Distance from the Earth it  
is



is very little. Notwithstanding, this little Change produces this great Effect: For from it, it proceeds, that the voluble Matter that surrounds the Globe may easily follow the attracting Faculty.

All these Things and such like, are the Cause that greater Motions are caused in the Air, than in the Sea by the same lunar Power; neither need we trouble our selves much, about shewing in particular at what Time the Motions happen. It's sufficient to shew that they are universal, and return at certain Distances of Time.

These Things being so, it's easy to conjecture, from the Flowing and Ebbing of the Sea, the violent Motion of the Air, as it were flowing and ebbing; we see from the rising of the Sea to 14 Feet, with what great Violence the Waves come to the Shoar; therefore the Air being elevated perhaps above a Mile, must needs create great Winds, unless  
some

some other Causes be at Hand to hinder them.

Neither are we to doubt but by the wise Counsel of the Almighty Creator, these *Fluxes* and *Refluxes* of both the Elements are created to keep them from *Stagnations* and *Corruptions* which would be noxious to all Animals, which by this Means are preserved.

We find this to be true by Experience, tho' no Body, as far as I know, has shewed the Manner; but those who observe that, in clear and open Places, those that are ready to die recover their Health, and the soundest in moist close Places grow sick, need look no further for the Cause.

But it may be objected to what is said; if the above spoke of *Phænomena* have their Origin from the above mentioned Causes, since they are of that Nature that they diminish the Weight of the Air, the Quick-silver in the Barometer especially



cially at the full and new Moon must needs fall to a certain Term, but the Compilers of barometrical Ephemerides observe the Contrary.

*Ramazzinus* was the first that wondered at it, and thought it was probable that as at that Time there are greater Tides in the Ocean than in the rest of the *lunar* Month, as every Body observes, because of the Power the Moon is believed to have over the Sea; so also in the Atmosphere there ought to be some remarkable Alteration in Gravity: *But in Truth*, says he, *there's nothing worth the speaking of, for there's scarce any Difference, as to the Mercury between the new and full Moon, and the rest of the Days of the Month.* (a)

But this Objection will vanish if we rightly consider the Cause of the rising and falling of the Quick-silver in the Barometer, invented by

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(a) *Ephemerid. Baromet. Mutin. Ann. 1694. p. 19.*

*Torricellio.* Its granted that it has its Origin from the Winds, which tho' they constantly follow the *lunar* Action, yet it cannot come to pass that their Effects should be the same in every Place, since the Nature of these Causes is, that here they *depress*, there at the same time *raise* up the suspended Liquor. The Cylinder of the incumbent Air being so divided and enlarged in one Place, whose Gravity is augmented in another, by the Accession of the condensed Air.

From thence it comes to pass, that no certain Observation can be made of this Matter; for in windy Seasons the Height of the Mercury changes every Hour, as the afore-said Author observes of the *Æquinoxes*; *about the Æquinoxes*, says he, (a) *are very great Variations*, e-

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(a) *Ibid.* p. 20.



*pecially in the autumnal, the Mercury ascending and descending the same Day several Lines, which in the Solstices kept the same Height it did the preceding Days.*

Besides the Winds draw their Origin from other Springs, besides the above mentioned Cause; and those so different among themselves that by Reason of the Uncertainty of Time and Place, the Effects must needs be so, that they blowing sometimes contrary and sometimes obliquely after different Manners, he would be mistaken who should sum up one Cause for all.

These following are the principal Causes, which raise the Winds that have no orderly Recourse.

First of all, elastick Vapors breaking out of the Bowels of the Earth by the Force of subterraneous Fires, and condensed from any Cause in the Air.

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Second-

Secondly, The Concourse of *Effluvia* from various Bodies of that Nature, that it stirs up Rarefactions and such Fermentations as we see by Experience to be caused by a Mixture of Liquors, made by Chymical Preparations; that such Phenomena's do often fall out a due Contemplation of Rivers and Meteors will sufficiently evince.

Thirdly, Mountains belching out Fire and Earthquakes, which extend the *Flux* of the Air to distant Regions.

Fourthly, The Powers of Comets and Planets, which do variously disturb and hinder the Influence and Power of the Sun and Moon.

To these may be added, the constant Cause of the Fleeting and Fluxing of the Air, *viz. The Heat of the Sun*; from these have their Origin,  
the



the constant and stationary Winds which blow in the Sea of the Torrid Zone, or that which lyes between the two Tropicks, as Dr. *Hall* has ingeniously demonstrated (*a*); for it's most certain, that the same Heat can every where cause various Motions of the Air.

Moreover we are certain, that Tempests do sometimes disturb the superior Parts of the Heavens, when the ambient Air next the Earth is quiet and serene; the same happens often to the Tops of Mountains when its calm in the Valleys; so many and so great Accidents hinder the Effects which follow the lunar Action from keeping every where the same Tenor and Order.

These being demonstrated, the next Thing that falls under our Consideration is, to shew from what

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(*a*) Philos. Transact. N. 183.

Causes those Motions of the Air which constantly fall out at the Flowing of the Sea, at new and full Moon, and in the Equinoxes do change the Fabrick of the Animal Bodies; to demonstrate this we must lay down the following Positions as certain.

First, all Animals that breath without Difficulty, and at their Ease do need Air in some Measure *heavy*; for the *spirable* Fluid by its Weight is forced into the Pipes of the Lungs. The Gravity of the ambient Air being undiminished at that Time, a lesser Portion of it than ordinary will be drawn into the Breast; which wanting Strength to subdue the Blood, and to promote the Power and Force with which it flows to the left Ventricle of the Heart, this *Liquor* performs its Circulation slower; whence proceed a more sparing Secretion of the Fluid, which goes to the Nerves.

Besides,



Besides, the Air fit for Respiration ought not only to be heavy, but to a certain Degree be endued with an elastick Vertue, for as it by the Power of its Weight rushes into the *Aspera Arteria* when the Breath is drawn, so when it's breathed out again it's driven out by the help of the Muscles of the *Abdomen* into the utmost Branches of this Pipe, where getting Liberty of expanding it self, the incumbent Pressure being diminished, the *Elastick Particles* rush every Way into the Sides of the *Vesicl's*, and by this means the little Channels of the Blood being *streightned*, they make the *Vital Fluid* fitter for Motion. Therefore, whatsoever Cause changes this Faculty of the Air necessarily disturbs the Motion of the animal Fabrick.

Those who climb up to the Top of high Mountains find a Necessity of these Conditions, for there they draw

draw Breath with great Difficulty, only for this Reason, because the Air there is too pure and thin, and not ponderous and elastick enough, and they can scarce draw enough to fill and move the Lungs.

Lastly, All Liquors in Animal Bodies contain a gentle elastick Air, which is of this Nature, that being unfettered it exercises its Power on all Parts ; and this is the Cause of those intestine Motions which we observe in the Blood, and in the rest of the vital *Fluids* ; whose force while they flow in their Channels is checked by the Air that surrounds the Superficies of the Body. This Pressure therefore being diminished the *internal* Air has Power to expand it self in Proportion to the Weight that is taken off from the external Element ; from hence it proceeds that the Humors fermenting, the Bands and Cohæfions of the least Particles are changed, and the least Channels



nels being stretched above Measure are sometimes broke.

This happens for the same Reason as when the Breath is drawn from an Animal by a Wind Pump; first of all they begin to be short breathed, then the Air being drawn out by Degrees the Body swells, the Lungs being so contracted that they can scarce be observed by the Dissector (a).

Before I go any further there are two Things I must advise the Reader; First, that the most remarkable Effect of the abovementioned Causes appear in those that have weak and sickly Bodies, those that have stronger more easily reject their Influences. The Evils that fall on poor Mortals from these Causes does not lessen the Praise that is due to the great Creator, who has given these Laws of Motion to the Air;

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(a) Vid. *Esperienze dell' Acedemia del Cimento*. p. m. 113.

for he has excellently provided for all Animals, tho' this very Care by accident may sometimes be detrimental to some few in particular. The Situation and Distance of the Sun from the Earth is so disposed, that nothing can be better for the Diffusion of Light and Heat thro' the whole World, notwithstanding the too great Heat in some Countries are noxious, in others the Cold is too great, especially for weak Bodies in Winter ; in every Country the Return of various Seasons create Distempers ; yet all will grant that Mankind is well provided for ; besides, as for the above related Cases, excellent Helps are provided, and so there are so many Obstacles opposite to these *Fluxes* of the Air which hinder its Effect, that in respect to the Whole it's to be looked on as nothing in comparison of the great Benefit and Use it causes unto the whole World, and to all the Animals it nourishes.

More-



Moreover, it's to be considered, that the rest of the Stars and Planets have every one their Power and Influence, which tho' they be not equal to the Influence of the Sun and Moon, they conspire notwithstanding to encrease or lessen their Powers on humane Bodies, and this Concourse is of so great Importance that we must refer to it the sudden and hidden Power of most Distempers in all Countries, and the *θεῖον τι* of *Hippocrates* (a) which he orders us to have a particular Regard to, than the State of the ambient Air proceeding from the Influence of the Stars and Planets, which is largely discoursed of elsewhere. (b)

For this Reason the Dog-Star was particularly observed by the Ancients, which is a large Star, whose Rising is regularly when the Air is

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(a) *Prognostic. I.* (b) *Account of Poisons, Essay 5.*  
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the most heated by the Sun Beams  
(c). So by a necessary Consequence  
all Diseases that proceed from too  
much Heat, must needs be encreas-  
ed; and harder to be cured, and  
those that have Feavers are then in  
greatest Danger.

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(c) *Hippocrat. De Aere, Loc. & Ag.*

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C H A P.



## C H A P. II.

**T**H E S E being so explain'd, we must now see and account for what Actions of our Bodies are chiefly hurt by the *periodical Turgescency* of the Liquors in its Channels; our Opinion shall be confirmed, not only by our own Observations, but from Examples brought out of Physicians Books, and indeed we may safely believe Authors relating such like Histories, since there is no Room left for *Opinions* which often corrupt Narratives, here's nothing but naked Truth divested of the Reasonings of Philosophers.

The Falling-sickness, which is otherwise a difficult Distemper, in this it seems wonderful to the Physicians

cians, that it has its Recourse every new and full Moon, *regit inquit Galenus (a) Luna in Epilepticis Periodos*; therefore those that are troubled with this Distemper, are called by Greek Authors *Σεληνιακοί (b)*, and in the New Testament (c) *Σεληνιαζόμενοι*, and by Latin Authors, *Lunatici (d)*. T. Bartholin saw (e) a Girl troubled with the Falling-sickness who had Spots in her Face, which varied in Greatness and Colour, according to the various Phases of the Moon. So great a Commerce and Correspondence, says he, there is between ours and the Celestial Bodies,

Dr. A. Pitcairn gave me an Account how he visited a Man about 30 Years old, of a slender Habit of

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(a) *De Diebus Critic. lib. 3.* (b) *Alexand. Trallian. lib. 1. cap. 15.* (c) *Matth. c. 17. v. 15.* (d) *Apuleius de Virtutibus Herbar. c. 9. & 65.* (e) *Histor. Anatom. Centur. 2. H. 72.*

Body,



Body, inclining to Melancholy, who about Nine Years ago, after a large Flux of Blood from his Nostrils, on a sudden he complained of an Humour ascending from his Right-Hand to the Top of his Arm; then he was deprived of his Senses, and fell down upon the Ground; but by and by coming to himself again, that Hand was so numb that he could not move a Finger; but his right Arm, against his will, for four Minutes was violently tossed too and again, he losing at the same Time the Use of his Tongue: from the first Time it seized on him, every Year this Distemper returned in a certain Order in the Months of *May* and *September*, viz. at the vernal and autumnal Equinox at the new Moon; but for the following Circumstances this Case is remarkable.

*First*, The Paroxysm was oftner in the Night than in the Day.

*Second-*

*Secondly*, It never seized on his Feet, or the left Arm.

*Thirdly*, The Numbness that seized on him after the first Time never took away his Senses, for he could either walk or ride.

*Fourthly*, The Humor running thro' his Hand he can move his Fingers, but when it seizes on his Arm he loses all Sense there and in his Fingers ; now and then it seizes on the Right Part of his Head, and produces violent Motions of the Arm for 3 or 4 Minutes.

*Fifthly*, At these Seasons of the Year when the Disease comes, the Numbness returns sometimes twice or thrice in an Hour, sometimes only once in 2 or 3 Days.

*Sixthly*, The Use of hot Bathing heightens the Disease, for the following



lowing Paroxysms were more severe.

*Seventhly*, About the Time the Distemper is ready to seize him, his Memory fails him very much.

This excellent Physician gives an Account of several Women of his Acquaintance, who according to the Motion of the Moon, had Epileptical Symptoms, especially Women with Child ; and those that sooner than ordinary had given over bearing of Children, and wanted their monthly Evacuations. These sometimes in their Sleep and sometimes by Day have such Paroxysms.

He tells how he cured two young Girls, whom the Moon caused to have epileptical Fits with ridiculous Motions, like those that are troubled with the Dance of *St. Vitus*: The Gestures were uncertain, and like one dancing, they spoke very  
F low,

low, especially when the Fit was strong. Those Physicians who did not observe its monthly Circulation, in vain attempted a Cure by the Use of the Medicaments prescribed by Dr. *Sidenham*, in his *Schedulâ Monitoriâ*.

Not long ago I found in a young Boy, troubled with this Disease, a wonderfull and uncommon Influence of the Moon. He was about a Year Old, and had strange Convulsions; so that he was lookt on as one that could not escape with Life; with great Difficulty at last the Distemper was vanquished; but after some Days, at full Moon, it seized on him again, with greater Violence, the Fits keeping the Periods of that Planet so exactly, that they assailed him every flowing Tide, his Voice was low, and his Senses were taken away when the Sea flowed, but at the Ebb he came to himself again. His Father observed this,



this, for he dwelt on the Banks of the Thames, and is the Master of a Lighter; for which Reason he diligently observed the Tide. These Periods were so constant, that the Father often rose to go about his Affairs, being called upon by his Son, after the Fit was over, he knowing it then to be Ebbing Tide. He continued in this Condition 14 Days, *viz.* till the new Moon, at which Time the drawing Plaister which (according to my Custom in the like Case I often use,) I had applyed to the hinder Part of his Head had drawn off the Scurf of a dry Scab, upon which a Serous and clear Humor suddenly flowed out in great Quantity. This unexpected Eruption gave him great Ease. I did what I could to persuade his Parents to keep it open, and to let it flow for a long Time, but they growing weary of the Fatigue, it grew up, the Cataplasms being laid

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aside;

afide ; but he being purged three or four Times, about the new and full Moon with *Mercurius dulcis* and such like Medicines, and an Issue made in his left Arm, for his Friends would not let me make any in the Nape of his Neck, on the highest Vertebra, tho' it would have much conduced to the Boy's Health ; however, by the above mentioned Method the Patient was freed from the Recourse of all ill Symptoms, and grew up a lusty jolly Youth.

It may be justly thought, that the Ignorance of the Causes is the Reason that in the vast Volumes that are writ of Physick, we have no such Relations as these ; but when a strict Inquiry shall be made into them, then Notice will be taken of them, for there are many Examples of such like Sympathys.

There's one Thing I would have observed, that the mad Fitts of the Lunaticks which return with the Course



Course of the Moon, have also joyned with them Symptoms of the Falling-sickness, which the most Learned Dr. *Tyson*, Physician to *Bedlam*, averred to me he found by daily Experience, who therefore called such Patients *Epileptical Mad Men*.

The Matter being so, it's not to be wondred at that some of the Ancients (a) (as *Aretæus* asserts) wholly attributed this Distemper to the Moon, being of Opinion, that it was sent for a Punishment of flagitious Crimes, and therefore they called it Sacred.

*Galen* says, (b) a Vertigo is near a Kin to the Falling-sickness, for this Reason *Cælius Aurelianus* (c) writes, that it was called anciently, a little

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(a) *Aret. Capad. de Diuturn. Morb. lib. 1. cap. 4.*

(b) *In Aphor. Hippocr. Comment. 3. Aph. 17.*

(c) *De Morb. Chron. lib. 1. cap. 2.*

Epilepsy ; in this both the Diseases agree that they keep lunar Periods for the most Part. Many Cases observed by Dr. *Pitcairn* confirm this.

Hysterical Fitts have also a near Relation to the Epilepsy ; and he performs the Cure best who diligently observes their Periods. Dr. *Pitcairn* gave me an Account of a young married Woman of his Acquaintance, red haired, and fat, whose Menstruums did not flow enough, she for four Years past complained of a troublesom *Compression* on the Top of her Head, a cold Humor falling down to her very Shoulders, with a grievous *Vertigo* and Strangulation of the Gorge or gullet Pipe. She vomited a sharp Flegm, had great Pain in her Breast, and Chest of her Body ; and when she rose in the Morning she had a great Difficulty of Breathing. These Distempers return in a constant Order, at the new and full Moon.

Charles



*Charles Pifo*, (a) a diligent Collector of the History of Diseases, gives an Account of the Distemper of a Lady, whose left Cheek, with a Part of her Neck, evidently swelled at the new Moon, which made her afraid of being suffocated; and he tells of a Girl (b) that he saw, who all the Spring long, about the full Moon, was so afflicted with such stubborn hysterical Symptoms, that they lasted a whole Quarter of the Moon; for when she was cruelly shaken the first Day, by the Flowing and Ebbing of the Distemper, two Days after an *ἀναυδία*, and deep Sleep seized her; the rest of the Quarter she cryed out, trifled and fell into a Delirium, and afterwards could not sleep.

Physicians do often observe periodical Palsies : *Piso* (c) gives an Ac-

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(a) *De Morbis à serofâ Colluvie*. Obs. 27.

(b) Obs. 28.

(c) Obs. 16.

count of an ancient Man that was oppressed with a Drowfiness with great Weariness; besides, he had a *Resolution* of the Nerves, and a Numbness, his Memory failed him, and he had a Sort of Madness with a Fever, at the new Moon for two Years together; but the Symptoms at last grew milder, and by degrees he felt little, in respect of what he had found at first.

*Nicholas Tulpius*, a Man of great Candor and Sharpness of Judgment, gives (a) us a famous Example of a Trembling of the Body, that had its Flowing and Ebbing, and grievously afflicted for three Years a Virgin that was very pale, and of a phlegmatick Constitution; the oppressive Fitt lasted about two Hours, she was then hoarse, and spoke with a very low Voice. *The Order of*

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(a) *Observ. Medic. lib. 1. cap. 12.*



*its Circulation and Recourse, agreed exactly sometimes with the Motion of the Sea, sometimes of the Moon and Sun (says he); for as they varied, so the Fit came on, quicker or slower.*

The Ancients all agreed, that the Moon had a great Influence on the Womens Monthly Purgations, which without doubt would always have the same Period in all Women, if the Difference of Temper, Diet, and Method of Living did not hinder. It's certain, that in those Countries that are situated near the *Æquator* (where the Action of the Moon is stronger) they have those Purgations more plentiful, then in those that are nearer the *Poles*, where the Activity of the Moon is weaker. *Hippocrates* (a) observed this as to those Women that live in the Northern Climates, and attributed to this

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(a) *De Aere, Locis, & Aq.*

the Barrenness of the *Scythian* Women.

This happening so to Women, in relation to their Purgations ; it is not to be wondred at, if Men have sometimes their *Periodical Hæmorrhagies* ; for as there is a greater Quantity of Blood, considering the Bulk, in Women, than in Men, it's the Cause that at certain Intervalls it flows out of the Body by peculiar Issues, especially when the internal *Aura* has the more liberty of expanding it self, by the diminishing of the Pressure of the ambient Air. So in the Males, especially those of weaker Constitutions, and less firm Contexture of the Fibras, if the Vessels be swelled up with too great a *Plethora*, they must needs break, especially at those Times when the external Air does less hinder their Distention.

The



The last Year a young Gentleman of a weak Constitution, but as to the rest in good Health, visited me; who for half a Year past had always, at the new Moon, a *Spitting of Blood*, which continued four or five Days: This Flux ceased by degrees, and he found it at the several Periods greater, when by Excess of eating or drinking his Veins were fuller, and less when he was more temperate.

The Case of Dr. *Pitcairn* is very remarkable, both in relation to the Distemper, and the Events which followed it. He when he was in *Scotland*, in the Country not far from *Edinburgh*, in the Year 1687, in the Month of *February*, the Sky being more clear than ordinary, and the Sun very red, just at the Change of the Moon, had without any manifest Cause a sudden Flux of Blood from his Nostrils, which was preceded by a great Weakness; the Day after

returning into the City, he found that at that very Hour (which was 9 a Clock in the Morning) that the Quick-silver in the Barometer was lower than ever he, or Dr. Gregory, in whose House he lodged, had ever observed it to be before; and that at the same Time, Dr. Cockburn Professor of Philosophy, dyed of a sudden Eruption of Blood from the Lungs; and he found that five or six of his Patients at that very Moment of Time, were attacked with different *Profusions* of Humours.

The Collections of the Royal Society, gives us two Examples of this Matter. The famous Dr. Musgrave relates one in this Manner (a). A certain Man from his Infancy, 'till the Twenty fourth Year of his Age, had always every full Moon a Flux of Blood from his left Thumb;

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(a) *Philos. Transact.* Numb. 272.



at first only four Ounces, but after he was sixteen years Old it flowed half a Pound; which when he endeavoured to stop by searing the Part with a hot Iron, he fell into a grievous *Hæmoptoe* or Blood spitting; out of which by often letting Blood he with great Difficulty recovered. A short Account of the other Example is thus (a). An *Irish* Inn-keeper from his Forty third Year of his Age, to the Fifty fifth, had an Effusion of Blood from the fore Finger of his Right-hand, which had its certain Periods every Month, flowing about 4 Pound; which when he endeavoured to stop by Art, he had a most grievous Pain in his Arm. But it had not so exact a Correspondence in its Periods with the Motion of the Moon as the former, because of his irregular eating and

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(a) *Philos. Transact.* Numb. 171,

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drinking, and the great Loss of Blood; but this is very remarkable, that at *Easter Tide*, viz. the first full Moon after the vernal Æquinox, the Blood first began to flow, which Season of the Year, as I have shewed above, is proper for these Distempers.

But here we must consider well, of what *Sanctorius* a principal Man for this Sort of Learning affirms, he found by the Experiment of his *weighing Chair*. *The Bodies of Men* (says he) *that are Sound, and use moderate Dyet, do every Month grow more ponderous, by one or two Pound Weight, and return to the ordinary Weight again about the End of the Month, like Women. The Crisis being perform'd by more plentiful, but troubled Urine.* From whence it necessarily follows, that the very strongest Complexions are every Month subjected to those Distempers which proceed from Repletion; and that at those Times they are in greatest



est Danger, when the ambient Air repells the distended Vessels with the lightest Weight : And finally, since the new and full Moon are of equal Power, these Sort of Distempers sometimes reign in the *One*, sometimes in the *Other*, as the Body happens to be more fitted to receive the Influence, and the Plenty of the Humors is more fitted for this than that Period of the Planet.

The Distemper of Women called the *Whites*, is very common, and difficult to cure ; Dr. *Pitcairn* observed this to continue four Years, and at the new Moon it kept its periodical Course for Eight Days.

Ulcers are subject to various Accidents, and yet they have their periodical Recourse of Humors, G. *Baglivius* (a) tells us of a learned ingenious young Man, who was

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(a) *De Experiment. circa Sanguinem*, p. m. 242.

tormented with a *Stercorationis* Fistula in the *Colon*, near the Region of the Liver; and that at the new Moon great Plenty of Excrements flowed from the Ulcer, which decreased as the Moon did. The Patient was so accustomed to it, that he certainly knew the Quarters and Periods of the Moon, by the lesser or greater Quantity of the Excrements that flowed from the Fistula.

This brings to my Mind the Misfortune of a young Man that caught a Misfortune by meddling with an unsound Woman; first of all, he had a great Pain in his Back, with a Heaviness in his Thighs for 4 Days, then a stinking Ulcer in his *Glans*; in seven Days time the Flux ceased of it self, but at the new Moon it returned, and continued so several Months, till he was cured by proper Medicines.

The Pains in the Reins have the same periodical Returns, *Nicholas Tul-*



*Tulpius* (a) describes the Distemper of *Henry Ainsworth*, an *English Minister* at *Amsterdam*, who had a Suppression of Urine every full Moon, with great Pain and a prodigious Heat all over his Body, till the 4th Day, and he could not make Water till the Moon decreased, or he was let Blood in the Arm; and he adds, that he observed at the same Time a periodical Pissing of the Hair, returning regularly every fourteen Days, with very great Difficulty of making Water; and his whole Body was in such an Agony, that he could scarce keep his Chamber.

I lately inspected the dissected Body of a Boy of five Years old, whose Death was caused by Pains in the Reins, accompanied with great Vomiting and Looseness. The *Reins* and the *Ureters* were filled with

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(a) *Observat. Lib. 2. cap. 43.*

a gravelly Matter, which was here and there concreted in various Forms. The Foundation of the Distemper was a clear watry Humor, which by degrees growing milky, was turned into little Christalls ; which coagulating together grew hard and stony. Dr. Groenvelt a Physician, very conversant in this Sort of Learning, assured me, that he had often visited this poor Creature, and observed that at full Moon he was extreamly afflicted, who was sometimes a little eased by the voiding of some small Stone thro' the urinary Passage.

Difficulty of Breathing has its monthly Periods, as *Helmontius* a Man of a sharp Witt, observed by Experience. *The Fit*, says he, (a) of the Asthma was more severe, and such Seasons and Stations of the Moon

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(a) Asthm. & Tuss. Sect. 22



which he presaged. *J. Floyerus* a learned knighted Physician, who in writing the History of this Distemper has outdone all; He viz. observed (a) that these Difficulties and Pains returned for the most Part, in the Space of 14 Days, and agree with the Periods of the Moon.

*Kerckringius*, a Man famous for Learning and Study, relates an unusual and rare Example of the lunar Influence: he says, he knew (b) a *French* Matron, who was round faced at full Moon, and was very beautiful; but at the Wane of the Moon, her Eyes, Nose, and Face were turned on one Side; so that she would not go abroad, because of the great Deformity, till the Moon changing again, she by little and little came to her full Moon and former Beauty. Let no man wonder

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(a) *Treatise of the Asthma*, pag. 17. (b) *Observ. Anatom.* 92.

at this, since its confirmed by what  
is commonly observed in Shell-fish,  
and many other Sorts of Animals:  
for *Lucilius*, a learned Poet (a)  
sings,

*Luna alit Ostrea, & implet Echinos,  
Muribu' fibras,  
Et Pecui addit —————*

And after him *Manilius* (b);

*Sic submersa fretis Concharum &  
Carcere clausa  
Ad Lunæ Motum variant Animalia  
Corpus.*

The Learning about the Crisis in  
acute Diseases, is a Matter of a ve-  
ry high and difficult Disquisition.  
It will be worth our while therefore,  
to make a stricter Inquiry into it.

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(a) *Apud Aul. Gellium*, lib. 20. cap. 8.

(b) *Astronomic*, lib. 2.



The Ancients put a great Stress upon the Observation of *Critical Days*, and according to them, distinguished the Times of the Feavers; but this is looked on as frivolous and to be laughed at by the Generality of Physicians; and that for two Causes as far as I can conjecture.

*First*, The Observations of these critical Days were first made in the oriental and hot Countries; and when they were observed in the northern and cold Countries, they found they failed, by reason of the Difference of the Climate.

Besides, the Art of Physick at first consisted of very few Medicines; neither was it the Custom in Feavers to make Use of any other Medicines than to break the Force and Violence of the Distemper by a slender Diet; so that they were only as it were Servants of Nature, which they followed as their Guide: They dili-

diligently applyed themselves to the Consideration of the various Motions of the Humors in the Body; but when they broke out into an Emulation one of another, and fell into different Methods of Curing, and began to act rather according to Opinion than to the Documents drawn from Nature, all the Precepts were laid aside which depended on the ancient Way of Curing, especially when they saw that the Patients were afflicted in divers Manners, and that it was uncertain what Sort of Pains had their Origin from the Disease, and what Pains were created by ill administred Medicines.

Therefore, that we may the better attain to the Knowledge on what Foundation the ancient Physicians built their Fabrick, and to what Rule he must square his Observations, that would imitate them, we will set some Things before the Readers



ders Eyes, in Order to clear up the Matter the better.

First of all it's to be considered, that every Epidemical Disease has its orderly Time for Increasing, Consistency, and Decreasing; and those Laws are so constant and perpetual, that those that have Accesses of continual Feavers, and those that have intermitting Feavers, have them both the same Measure of Time, counting according to the *Paroxysms* or Fitts of the intermitting, and the continued Number of Days of that which never intermits.

This Dr. *Sydenham*, a Man very diligent in tracing the Histories of Diseases found to be true, only by Experience; who observed that for this Reason (a) the *Autumnal Quartans* continued six Months; for if the Numbers of the recurrent Ac-

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(a) *De Morb. Acut.* p. m. 95.

*cessions* be rightly cast up during that Time, they amount to 336 Hours, or 14 Days, which is the Term or End of the *continual Feavers* of that Season.

The Observation of *Galen* (a) is the same, *viz.* That therefore an *exquisite* Tertian has seven periodical Circuits, because a regular and continual Feaver ceases within the seventh Day, because every Paroxysm makes up a Day; so that each Feaver, tho' they be unequal in other Circumstances, they are equal as to the Duration of Time in humane Bodies.

The Reason why this happens is this, *viz.*

*Secondly*, In those Distempers the Blood is fermented, neither doth it cool till the Particles causing the

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(b) *Comment. in Aphor. Hippocr. lib. 4 Aph. 59. & de Crisib. lib. 2. c. 6.*



Distemper be cast out by the *Organs* of *Secretion* or Separation, according as the *Humor* is prepared and fitted to them.

*Thirdly*, That as the *Liquors* that do ferment are purified and cleansed in their own proper *Time*, so the *vital Fluid* has its proper *Space* of *Time*, in which its purified from the *Ferment*.

*Fourthly*, It's to be observed, that the *Symptoms* conjoyned to this *Effervescency* of the *Blood*, do not always perform their *Course* in the same *Tenor*; but from hence it proceeds, that especially on *certain Days* the *Disease* discovers such manifest *Signs* of it self, that it's no hard *Matter* to make a *Conjecture* of the good or bad *Issue* of the *Sickness*.

The Nature of Feavers being exactly known, the Ancients called those Days, on which the Patients either died or recovered, *Critical*, or *Decretory*; but those Days on which they observed Signs of Hope or Danger, they called the Prognosticators or *Signs of the Crisis*.

And hitherto this Science was not conjectural, but when ill Reasonings came to be joyned to these good Observations, they filled the Question full of great Doubts. *Hippocrates* was ignorant of the Cause of this Nature; of acute Diseases, that the Patient recovered his Health on the *Seventh*, *Fourteenth*, or *Twenty first* Day. The School of *Pythagoras* was the most eminent in those Days, whose greatest Science was placed in Harmony, and the abstruse Mysteries of Numbers; odd Numbers were accounted more efficacious than *even*, but the chief Power was attributed to the *Seventh*.  
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The Divine old Dr. did so precisely follow the Opinions of the Philosopher, that he feared a Relapse, if the Feaver ceased on an *even Day* (a); and then unless that it ceased on the 7th, he expected the 14th or 21st Day; for says he, *The Number 7 is of great Efficacy both in Sickneses and in Births* (b).

But since it's certain, that Feavers often cease on the Sixth and the Eighth, without any Danger of a Relapse, *Asclepiades* rejected those Reasons as vain and frivolous, (c) and *Celsus* justly passed this Sentence on them. *The famous Pythagorical Numbers deceived the Ancients.*

This Error being observed, *Galen* made a much better Disquisition in this Matter, and was of Opinion, that the *Accesses* and *Crises* of Feavers had not their Origin from the Effi-

(a) *Aphor. Sect. 4. 36.* (b) *De Septimest. Partu.*

(c) *Vid. Celsum, lib. 3. cap. 4.*

cacy of *odd Days*, but from the Influence of the Moon, which rules Terrestrial Things, and surpasses the other Planets and Stars, not so much by her Power, as by her Nearness or Vicinity to them (a).

Therefore, acute Distempers, if we will follow *Galen's* Authority, have their Circulations in the Space of seven Days, in which they have their Access and Declinations from the Course of the Moon, which in every Week when she is *new*, half *Full*, or Full, has her greatest Influences (b).

From this it's clear, that *Galen* observed right the Cause that changed the Paroxysms or Fitts of Feavers; but he did not know the *Manner* how this Effect was produced. The Sum of the Matter is this,

(a) *De Dieb. Decretor. lib. 3.*

(b) *De Dieb. Decretor. lib. 3.*



The *Crisis* is the Expulsion of the Matter, that creates the Distemper, thro' the Pores of the Body, which is lessened and digested by little and little, 'till it can go thro' the Pores and Channels of the *Glandules*, thro' which it's expelled. Therefore, as the *Dissolution* of a Fever is most perfected by *Sweats* (first because the *subcutaneous Glandules* void more of the Liquors. Secondly, only a thin and well concocted Humor can pass thro' their narrow Channels;) So a flux of Blood finishes it with the greatest Danger; for it shews that the Nature of the Distemper is such, that the Blood cannot be purified or defecated by none of the Passages of the Body, which therefore by its *Effervescency* breaks the Channels. The *Abscesses* got in those Parts keep the Mean thro' which thick and tenacious Juices are purged out.

It's

It's certain therefore, that if the Time fall upon the new or full Moon, in which the noxious Humor is expelled from the cooling Blood, or that the little Channels extreamly extended by the feverish Heat, do threaten a Profusion, the *Crisis* of the Distemper is by so much the easier and fuller, because the ambient Air has then lesser Force on the *Superficies* of the Body, and does not so violently repress the Motion of the *Fluids*. Hence it sometimes happens that the Dissolution of the Fever for the various Reasons of this Cause, is sometimes perform'd to *Day*, when according to the Custom and ordinary Course of the Distemper, it ought to be performed to *Morrow*; or on the contrary, may be deferred till to *Morrow*, which might be hoped for to *Day*. When the Motion of Nature may be accelerated by the Power of the Moon and the weaker than ordinary *Machine*.

*chine* stands in need of it, sometimes to remove the Obstacle of the Air. Therefore as *Galen* has observed, the Distemper may be dissolved, sometimes on the *Sixth*, and sometimes on the *Eighth* Day, which in most falls on the *Seventh*.

Therefore, if we would rightly weigh the Force of the lunar Power in those Cases, we must diligently observe the Time that the Distemper seized on the Patient ; afterwards its Nature, and know exactly by what Sort of *Secretion* Nature endeavours to perform the Cure, and to have a special Care of disturbing the Humors, especially near the End of the Distemper ; and diligently to weigh the Strength of the Patient. He that observes these Rules, without Doubt will find by Experience, that not only the new and full Moon, but its Access to the *Zenith* and the *Nadir* has a great



great Force of changing the Animal Machine.

The Observation of Monsieur *Paschal* of the Birth and Death of Animals, and the Accesses of Diseases, fully proves our Assertion, and doth almost give us ocular Demonstration of it (*a*); for he divides the *Νυχθημερον* or the Day and the Night into four *Sixes*. The three Hours preceding the Moon's coming full *South* with the 3 Hours that follow, make up the first *Senary*; the second is made up of the six subsequent Hours. The third and fourth *Senary* consists of the Parts of the Day only: From hence he drew the following Observation, that no Animal is born or dies in the first *senarious Fluxes*, as he calls them; but that all Births and Deaths fall on the second and fourth *senarious Reflex*: and he fur-

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(*a*) *Philos. Transact.* Numb. 202.

ther observes, that intermitting Fevers have their greatest Paroxysms or Fitts in the Time of the *Flux*, and that they cease in the Time of the *Reflux* by sweating; from hence he gathers, that the Motion, Vigour and Force of Distempers are chiefly in the *Senary* of the *Flux*, on the contrary in the *Senary* of the *Reflux* they are dissolved.

Therefore *Aristotle* has made a true Observation, which he has left to Posterity, that no Animal expires but in the *Ebb* (a).

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(a) *Vid. Plin. Hist. Nat. lib. 2. cap. 98.*

K C H A P.

## C H A P. III.

**N**OW we must pass to the Use that may be drawn from this Disquisition, which would not be small, if we looked no further than the Predictions of the *Accesses* and Events in Diseases; which gain the Physician Honour and Respect, and raises the Patients Hopes and Confidence; but we shall draw greater Advantages from it, and I shall shew that the Cure of Distempers is promoted from these Reasonings. I'll first Treat in General, afterwards in particular.

I look upon it as granted by all, that all Distempers whose Circulations correspond to the lunar Periods are caused by Repletions, for since the *lunar Actions* causes this Effect  
by



by the Distention of the Vessels, it's clear, that it only increases the Fullness or *Plentitude*, which whether we attribute it to the *Weight* and *Bulk* of the Fluids, or to their *Turgescency* comes all to one.

Therefore, in all Distempers that have their *Recourse*, once or twice every Month, which acquire Strength from the Influence of the Moon, *Evacuation* will be of great Use; which if it do not cure, at least it will ease the Patient.

But because in this Remedy we are first to consider of what Sort or Kind the Distemper is, and the Method and Time of Evacuation; some Precepts are to be observed in the Conduct of the whole Matter.

Therefore we are to observe diligently, first of all, whether the Cause of the Distemper lye in the Arteries, or whether it be transferred into any principal Part of the Body, by the Fault of the Liquors,

which are derived from the Blood. In the first Case, Blood-letting is to be made Use of; in the latter, proper Medicaments.

Besides, since we see by Experience, that the morbidick Matter is most safely evacuated by the Ways and Passages that Nature shews, we must diligently observe the spontaneous Evacuations of the Distemper, and by what Passages they are vented.

Then the fittest Time for this Evacuation is to be observed, which in most Cases is a little before the *Access* of the Distemper; for by this Means the Fit is lessened, and the turgescient Matter is more easily and more plentifully evacuated.

But of these we shall be able to form a better Judgment, if we dispatch in a few Words some Things I have mentioned above, relating to the Cure of Diseases spoke of there.

I will

I will begin with the Falling-sickness; which Distemper is hard to be cured in those that are grown up to Man's Estate, but more easy in young Children; and it appears from the Case I have related, how much among the many Methods of Evacuation, that of the serous Matter from the Head, by a *vesicatory Plaister* laid to the hinder Part of the Head does prevail, which confirms what *Panarolus* asserts, that he cured a Boy of seven Years old, that was dumb, and foolish, and subject to the Falling-sickness, by applying a *Vesicatory* to the *Coronal Suture* (a). This approves the Council of *Celsus* (b), who advises the Cutting of the hinder Part of the Head, and Cupping and Scarifying it, and particularly in two Places on the highest Vertebra of the Neck; that by

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(a) *Observ. Medic. Pentecost. 4. Obs. 30.*

(b) *Lib. 3. Cap. 23.*



this Means the pernicious Humor (c) may flow out ; for these Sort of Diseases generally seize the Brain, which as in Children, it has its Rise from *Fulness*, and the slow Inactivity of the Blood, for Want of Exercise and free Breathing ; so in those that are more advanced in Years, it often proceeds from Humors falling from above, and sudden Frights. If any Thing can possibly cure this grievous Distemper, and correct the Fault of the Fluids, we may hope for it either from true or factitious *Cinnabar*, or from the Root of wild *Valerian*, pulverized before it shoot out its Stalk, being often taken ; I have found by experience a good Effect of both. Of the Virtues of the last, I would advise *Panarolus* to be carefully read (a) ; and *Fabius*

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(a) *Observ. Pentec. 1. Obs. 33.*

*Columna (a)*, a learned Author and an excellent *Botanist*.

The *Vertigo* yields to these Remedies ; but the Patient must be sometimes vomited, and drawing Plasters laid to the Head or Neck, to make the peccant Humor flow out. This is a Distemper of the Eyes, and it proceeds from the too great Extension of the little Arteries, as is clear from *Bellinus's Theory*; therefore it's no Wonder if it correspond to the lunar Circulations.

Neither is the Cure of Hysterical Fitts much unlike the former, only the Patient must not be let Blood, and seldom purged ; Vomiting is better about the Time that the Fitt is feared, but if it have already seized the Patient, then Pills made of *Gum Ammoniacum*, stinking *Castoreum*, and *Salt of Amber*, and such like Medi-

cines, which refresh the Spirits perform the Cure; but in these Cases the Medicine must be fitter to the Womens Method of living, and chiefly to the Affections of their Minds.

Therefore the Palsy has sometimes its monthly Periods and Recourses, because this Distemper for the most Part, begins from the Head, the serous Humor being driven out of the Channels; which according to the Variety of Places on which it falls, brings a *Resolution* of the Nerves, on this or that Part; from hence it proceeds, that the Distemper often follows an *Apoplexy*, sometimes both, and sometimes only one side of the Body being affected with the Distemper; but if the Weakness proceed from the Nerves that are extrinsically hurt, or from internal Tumors, it has no certain Circulation or Periods.



It's very good for the Patient after the Evacuation of the redundant Phlegm to purge with Medicines, which extenuate cold and viscous Humors, such as are the Roots of *Clowns-rape* or *Radish*, *Wild Valerian*, *Mustard-seed*; and such like: frequent Bathing in very cold Water is very good, if Strength and Age permit it : This Medicine has not the same Effect on old and young, it contracts the relaxated *little Fibres*, and moves the Urin; which both are good for this Distemper.

For this Reason the Ancients, as *Celius Aurelianus* (a) relates, ordered such Patients either to swim in the Sea, or to place the affected Parts under the Water falling from on high, because the Sea-Water is heavier than the Fresh, and swift

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(a) *Chronic. lib. 2. cap. 1.*

L

running

running Water is colder than Water that stagnates.

As to the Defects that happen in Womens monthly Purgations, it's seriously to be weighed, that as for the most Part the too great Profusion springs from the Acrimony of the Blood, so the retarding and stopping of the Menstruous Blood very often proceeds from its Sluggishness. The Suppression of this Flux is seldom attributed to the Smallness of the Humor. The wise Creator of all Things, has so well provided for the Purgation, that is, so necessary for the Health of every Woman in particular, and the Propagation of humane Kind. Therefore, as in the immoderate *Flux* the Season is strictly to be considered, in which we have observed that the fervent Humor easily breaks its Channels, that at that Time the Course of the Matter may be averted by Blood-letting, far from the

the Place where it breaks out: So as often as the Stoppage of the Purgation makes Blood-letting necessary, the Caution of *Lindanus* is to be observed, which is highly commended by *Etmullerus* (a), and very ingeniously explained by the most learned Dr. *Friend* (b). Now since the *Cortex Peruvianus*, commonly called, the *Jesuits Bark*, does most efficaciously repress the *Effervescency* of the arterious Liquor which distends the Vessels; it will be of great Use when too great an *Effusion* is feared, to use often the Bark, some Days before the *Access*.

The same Method is to be observed in all other Hemorrhagies that have their Recourse at certain Intervals: Help must be drawn from those Medicines that repress the too

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(a) *Tom. 2. p. 1017. Edit. ult.*

(b) *Emmenology. p. 103.*



much distended Fibres, among the which, the Chief is, that concreted Juice, falsely called, *Terra Japonica*, which by many Experiments I have found to be effectual; especially in the voiding of Blood, which proceeds from the Lungs.

But it's necessary that I should advise here, that the Power of the Moon is so great in such like Cases, that, the Blood which comes from one Part being suppressed, it flows out at another breaking the uttermost Channels; this happened to the young Gentleman (a) mentioned above; for when the Medicaments I have commended above, repressed the Spitting of Blood from the Lungs every Month, he at the same Time bled at his Nose without any Danger, the principal Part being cured.

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(a) Pag. 83.

The same happens to Four-footed-Beasts, some of which have their Purgation for the most Part, at the new Moon, especially Mares and Apes; and that so constantly, that *Orus Apollo* (a) tells us, *that the Ægyptians did not only paint the Baboon or Cynocephalus for the Moon, because of a menstruous Correspondence this Animal has with the new Moon, but they kept Apes in their Temples, that from them they might discover the Time of the Conjunction of the Sun and the Moon.* So all Animals shew the Power of the lunar Influence, provided an equal and constant diet be preserved, by which the Body is fitted to receive the Influence.

He that understands this, will easily discover how necessarily the white Flux keeps its monthly Circulations, especially if this Humor

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(a) *Hieroglyp. 5. Gerne de Simiis.*

flow from the uterine Vessels ; for sometimes it flows from them, sometimes from the Glandules that compose the *Vagina* : in the first Case, when the Women have their Months it ceases, but in the latter it flows, even during the Menstruums, and when the Woman is with Child.

The same Observation may be made of Ulcers, from which Corruption continually flows, that the same Causes create a larger Effusion, especially in those Parts, which are more laxe, and the Texture of the Body is more yielding, and makes little Resistance against the Distention of the small Channels : So that those that are wounded in the Head, are in great Danger at new and full Moon.

In the Cure of *Nephritick* Pains, Blood-letting at first is very necessary, and it will be of great Advantage to those who are afflicted with this Distemper, to observe in what  
Intervals



Intervalls the Paroxysms have their Recourse, and at what Time they are in the greatest Danger, and then to evacuate the Vessels; for it's certain, that the Compression of the narrow Passages in the Reins, proceeding from the Fullness of the small Arteries encrease this Distemper, which no doubt, is still more heightened from the *new* and *full Moon*.

Therefore, I cannot but sometimes admire to see the Writers of Physical Histories, to be wholly taken up with Precipitating (as they are pleased to phrase it) the small Gravel into the little *venal Tubes*, when I have discerned from the Dissection of Bodies, as I have related above, that the first Matter of the Gravel is a most clear *Serum* in the *Caruncles*, thro' which the Urine distills. Now, that this Serum may petrify, none will doubt, who considers the attractive Powers of fluid Saks, and the Effects of Motion

tion hindered in very narrow Channels; from hence it proceeds, that the Use of *Mercurius dulcis*, avails more in the Beginning of this Disease, than all the Medicaments that move Urine. The Obstructions of the little Vessels being opened, and the Cohesion of Salt Humors, which often follow their Oppilations, being hindred.

Since the lunar Power doth afflict, several Ways, those that have Difficulty of breathing; First, because a lesser Portion of the Air is drawn into the Lungs; Secondly, because of the greater Extension of the Vessels of the Blood: the Cure must be begun by *Phlebotomy*, *gentle Vomits*, making the feces of the Belly soluble, and sometimes by purging; but a particular Care must be had, about the Time of the impending Disease, that the Patient abstain from all Things that stir up the Fervour and Fury of the Blood,

Blood, for they have a little Feaver, which is dangerous to encrease by hot Meats or Medicaments, and therefore *Hippocrates* advises those that are afflicted with this Distemper, to abstain from Anger and Shouting (a); and *Helmont* has observed, that (b) the Asthmatical have worse and more frequent Fitts in Summer than in Winter: for this Reason, besides what I have already given, those Medicaments are of great Use, which at once both cool or refrigerate the Humors, and expell Urine; such as Vinegar in which Squills have been infused, the acid Spirit of *Niter*, or *Sal Ammoniacum*, Water sated with the Smoak of Sulphur, which the Chymists call *Gas Sulphuris*, and many other such like Things, which the ever to be praised Dr. *Floyer* has mustered up.

The Cure of Fevers requires great Diligence, and a sharp Judgment in the Physician: it's performed espec-

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(a) *Epidem* lib. 6. sect. 4. (b) *Asthm. & Tuss.*



ally by Evacuations, the Blood being extreamly hot; but purging is seldom used, because it disturbs the Motion of the Humors, by which Nature endeavours to purify and defecate Blood. While the Disease is in its Consistency, spare Diet must rather be used than Medicaments; but when the Distemper begins to decline, the Strength of the Patient must be restored by little and little, that the remaining Matter may be expelled by the Ways that Nature indicates.

The Antients have given us useful Precepts upon these Matters. The Theory of *Bellinus* has given us an Account of the Use and Reason of them. But he only will know to accommodate Medicaments, in any Time of the Distemper, who rightly understands the Faculties and Powers of his Medicaments, and thro' how great a Necessity the Humors of various Kinds are derived, thro' these or those Parts.

F I N I S.

A

## COROLLARY.

**S**INCE in the first Sheets of this Book we have explained, that the Motions of the Heavens cause the Recourse of Diseases, and are able to raise the Winds, whose various Force we percieve, as various Causes conspire with them, to move the Air; it will be worth our while, in a few Words, to declare how much the Nature of Things confirms these Reasons.

There happened some Months ago, the last Year, on the 26 of *November*, a grievous Storm a little before Midnight, all People admiring the Fury of it, which lasted above six Hours. It's not my Business, neither have I Leasure to make a History of it, and relate the Causes of that wonderful Event. I will not undertake to med-

dle with it, since the most Ingenious Dr. *Hall* has undertaken it; but I will slightly touch upon what concerns the Matter in Hand.

The Moon at that Time was in her *Perigæum*, and the new Moon was at hand. It's already demonstrated, that for both these Reasons the Air is carried aloft, and that the Winds increase, and from hence it proceeded, that the Flowing of the Sea was extraordinary, and that the Quick-silver, at least in many Places, was then higher than ordinary.

Other Causes without doubt, besides those that are mentioned above, (p. 22.) concurr'd with these. It's impossible to know them all, but it may be the Subject of a curious Disquisition, to consider how much the Disposition of the Heavens conducted to it.

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(a) *Philos. Transact.* Numb. 289.

Since



Since that in these Places in which this Hurrican was fiercest, it is to be observed, that both in the Summer and Autumn, there fell greater Quantities of Rain than ordinary; the approaching Winter was also milder and warmer than that Season is generally: So that even to the End of *November* the Spirits and Liquors in the Thermometer, whose 84th Degree shows Frost, never fell below the 100th (a).

From hence were gathered together in the Air, and carried up by warm Exhalations from the moist Earth infinite Atoms of Salts and Sulphur, which meeting together, and being variously agitated, increased the destructive Fury.

This is further confirmed, if we consider that in the Height of its Fierceness it lightned very much, and

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(a) *Philos. Transact. loco Citato.*

that

that the Grass and Leaves were so covered with Salt Particles, even in Places far remote from the Sea, that the Cattle would not touch them.

But I have not Leisure to pursue this Matter any longer, tho' I cannot omit to put the Reader in mind that there happened in our Fathers days, a violent Tempest, which tho' perchance, it was not equal to this, yet the Writers of those Times speak much of its great Fury. It happened that Night after the Arch-traytor *Oliver*, died, on the 3d of *September*, 1658.

No Almanack or Memoirs give any Account of the Disposition of the Air, and the Heavens that Year; but this is to be observed, which makes to our Purpose, that the Moon was full about the Autumnal Equinox, and fitted the Region of the Air for so great Motions.

The

The learned *Baccius* has observed, (a) that in those Countries which are troubled with frequent Deluges, that the Inundations for the most Part, happen when the Moon <sup>is</sup> at Full; and he assigns as the certain Cause of these Mischiefs, to be the immoderate swelling and flowing of the Sea, joyned with the attractive Faculty of the Planets.

Storms and Tempests have their Origin from these and such like Causes, for it's not our Business to discourse here of the divine Power, or whether they are sent by the Anger of God, for the Punishment of Sinners. I will not endeavour to loose People from the Bonds of Religion; for tho' all Parts of this immense Machine move by certain Laws, and what's convenient for the Whole, may sometimes hurt *Particu-*

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(a) *Del Tevere* lib. 3. p. 228.



*lars*, we must still leave the entire Command to the Creator of all, and perhaps it was conformable to the Divine Will, to create the World in that Manner, that sometimes Storms, Deluges and Earthquakes, and Thunder, should happen to terrify and keep Sinners in Order, who might otherwise else forget him.

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